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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/891,389	06/27/2001	Hiroyuki Kimura	35.C15501	4403

5514 7590 10/29/2004

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NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

AZAD, ABUL K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2654

DATE MAILED: 10/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/891,389	Applicant(s) KIMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner ABUL K. AZAD	Art Unit 2654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-131 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-131 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-29 and 112-117, drawn to a voice synthesizing apparatus/method for detecting overlap, classified in class 704, subclass 260.
 - II. Claims 30-49, drawn to a voice synthesizing apparatus/method for generating synthetic voice of a plurality of text data and outputting them at a time, classified in class 704, subclass 260.
 - III. Claims 50-58, 62-70 and 74-82, drawn to voice synthesizing apparatus/method for voice-synthesizing a plurality of text data with different kinds of voices, classified in class 704, subclass 260.
 - IV. Claims 59-61, 71-73 and 83-87, drawn to voice synthesizing apparatus/method for causing respective voice to be outputted from different uttering means, classified in class 704, subclass 260.
 - V. Claims 88-90, 96-98 and 104-106, drawn to a voice synthesizing apparatus/method for upping the reproduction speed of the voice waveform, classified in class 704, subclass 260.
 - VI. Claims 91-92, 99-100 and 107-108, drawn to a voice synthesizing apparatus/method for producing a predetermined blank period after the termination of a reproduction of a preceding voice waveform, classified in class 704, subclass 260.

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VII. Claims 93-95, 101-103 and 109-111, drawn to a voice synthesizing apparatus/method for reproducing a specific voice synthesis waveform after the termination of the reproducing of preceding voice waveform, classified in class 704, subclass 260.

VIII. Claims 118-131, drawn to a voice synthesizing apparatus/method having a controlling means/step, classified in class 704, subclass 260.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions of Groups I to VIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of each Group has separate utility such as detecting overlap, generating synthetic voice of a plurality of text data and outputting them at a time, voice-synthesizing a plurality of text data with different kinds of voices, causing respective voice to be outputted from different uttering means, upping the reproduction speed of the voice waveform, producing a predetermined blank period after the termination of a reproduction of a preceding voice waveform, a specific voice synthesis waveform after the termination of the reproducing of preceding voice waveform and having a controlling means/step. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Groups II to Group VIII, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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4. A telephone call was made to Mr. Gary M. Jacobs (reg. No. 28,861) on October 20, 2004 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Abul K. Azad** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3838**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richemond Dorvil**, can be reached at **(703) 305-9645**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314

(For informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington,
VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should
be directed to the Technology Center's Customer Service Office at telephone number
(703) 306-0377.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.K. Azad' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Abul K. Azad

October 26, 2004